

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

HEATHER M.,

Plaintiff,  
v.

Case No. 2:21-cv-978  
JUDGE EDMUND A. SARGUS, JR.  
Magistrate Judge Chelsey M. Vascura

COMMISSIONER OF  
SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

**ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on the parties' Joint Motion for Attorney Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412. (ECF No. 16.) The Court hereby **GRANTS** the parties' joint motion and awards Plaintiff EAJA fees of \$4,300.00 and costs of \$0.00, for a total award of \$4,300.00. (*Id.*) Consistent with *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), counsel for the parties shall verify whether Plaintiff owes a preexisting debt to the United States subject to offset. If no such pre-existing debt exists, Defendant shall pay the EAJA award directly to Plaintiff's counsel pursuant to the EAJA assignment signed by Plaintiff.

This case is to remain closed on the docket of this Court.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

1/13/2022  
**DATE**

s/Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.  
**EDMUND A. SARGUS, JR.**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**